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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 279662

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PORTUGAL: STATE OF SEIGE IMPOSED, CRISIS CONTINUES

ALTHOUGH ALL FOUR AIR BASES WERE REPORTED UNDER GOVERN-
MENT CONTROL BY 2100 EST NOVEMBER 25, REBEL PARATROOPERS
REOCCUPIED TANCOS AIR BASE AND, AT 0800 LOCAL (0200 EST),
THERE WAS HEAVY FIRING NEAR THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.
EMBASSY LISBON BELIEVES THE GOVERNMENT HAS THINGS UNDER
CONTROL BUT COMMENTS THAT THE REMAINING INSTABILITY POSES
SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

EARLIER, THE GOVERNMENT DECLARED A PARTIAL STATE OF SEIGE,
IMPOSED A CURFEW FROM MIDNIGHT TO 0600, AND TEMPORARILY
BANNED PUBLICATION OF ALL NEWSPAPERS AND PARTY COMMUNI-
QUES. AN ULTRA-LEFTIST CROWD OF ABOUT 2000 WHICH GATHERED
AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE WAS ADDRESSED BY COSTA GOMES
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AND OTELO AND WAS LATER DISPERSED AFTER SHOOTING AND SOME

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INJURIES.

LABOR MINISTER ROSA TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT THE MUTINY WAS PROBABLY THE RESULT OF COMMUNIST PARTY ENCOURAGEMENT TO KEY MILITARY REBELS AND SPECULATED:

--THE COMMUNISTS HAD FAILED TO PRECIPITATE A RIGHT-IST COUNTER COUP, WHICH THEY HAD HOPED WOULD IN TURN SPARK WIDESPREAD PROTEST OUT OF WHICH THEY COULD CLAIM BROAD POPULAR SUPPORT.

--IT WAS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD ASSUMED CHARGE OF THE SITUATION AND ORDERED IN THE COMMANDOS ONLY AFTER WAITING TO SEE WHICH WAY THE TIDE WOULD TURN. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 7029 (SITREP 10), 7032 (SITREP 13), 7040 (SITREP 19) 7038 (SITREP 18) AND 7041 (SITREP 20.)

2. ISRAEL: ABBA EBAN CRITICIZES GOI POLICY OF STAGNATION

FORMER ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER ABBA EBAN, IN A NOVEMBER 21 INTERVIEW, CHARGED THE GOVERNMENT WITH PURSUING A POLICY OF STAGNATION BY DISMISSING THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE INTERIM AGREEMENTS WITH EGYPT AND JORDAN, MINIMIZ-ING THE CHANCES FOR AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT WITH SYRIA, AND REFUSING TO DEAL WITH JORDAN AND THE PLO ON THE PALESTIN-IAN ISSUE. THE LIKELY OUTCOME OF THIS POLICY, IN HIS ESTIMATION, WILL BE:

--WAR WITH SYRIA;

--STRONG US CRITICISM OF ISRAEL'S LACK OF MOVEMENT; AND

--SOVIET PRESSURE FOR A RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA CON-FERENCE, WITH ATTENDANT PROBLEMS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: EBAN HAS NOW EMERGED AS THE MOST PROMI-NENT OF THE LABOR PARTY MODERATES CHALLENGING THE GOI FOR-EIGN POLICY LINE. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) TEL AVIV 7461, CONFIDENTIAL

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11/25.)

3. MARCOS PRAISES AUTHORITARIAN RULE

IN A NOVEMBER 24 SPEECH, PRESIDENT MARCOS GAVE A SWEEPING DEFENSE OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S "CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITARIAN-ISM" AND UNABASHEDLY LAUDED THE MOVEMENT FROM "SLAVISH ADVOCACY OF JEFFERSONIAN GOVERNMENT TO THE PURSUIT AND

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FOUNDING OF A POLITICAL SYSTEM THAT WILL SERVE OUR REAL NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS AS A NATION." EMBASSY MANILA COMMENTS THAT THE REMARKS, WHICH ARE PROBABLY UNRELATED TO PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT, DEMONSTRATE THAT THE GOP HAS DISPENSED WITH LIP SERVICE TO DEMOCRACY. WHAT REMAINS IS UNADORNED ONE-MAN RULE. (CONFIDENTIAL) MANILA 16563, 11/25.)

4. COFFEE NEGOTIATIONS GRIND TO A STALEMATE

EMBASSY LONDON REPORTS THAT THE COFFEE NEGOTIATORS ARE DEADLOCKED ON THE TWO KEY ISSUES OF DIVISION OF MARKET SHARES AMONG PRODUCERS AND BRAZIL'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT A PROPOSED SHORTFALL PROVISION. IF THINGS DO NOT PERK UP BY THE DECEMBER 1 MEETING AND THE DELEGATES REMAIN AT AN IMPASSE, THE MOST LIKELY RESULT WILL BE A THREE-YEAR COFFEE AGREEMENT LACKING THE DESIRED ECONOMIC PROVISIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 18152, 11/25.) KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, COFFEE, MORNING SUMMARY, POLITICAL SITUATION, MUTINY, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE279662
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: WOLF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750411-0856
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751111/aaaaaiys.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, MORG, PINS, PINT, ETRD, PO, IS, RP, UK, (EBAN, ABBA), (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
To: NSA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006